

MARVEL

3 of 5

**PARENTAL
ADVISORY!
NOT FOR KIDS!**

GEORGE A. ROMERO

EMPIRE OF THE DEAD™

ACT TWO

ILLUSTRATED BY
DALIBORTALAJIC



NYC UNDEAD UPDATE!



MAYOR CHANDRAKE



PENNY JONES



PAUL BARNUM



XAVIER

FIVE YEARS AFTER THE DEAD FIRST WALKED, NEW YORK CITY HAS BECOME A FORTRESS OF ISOLATION AGAINST THE UNDEAD PLAGUE VIA THE MILITARISTIC FORCES OF MAYOR CHANDRAKE AND HIS CABAL OF SECRET VAMPIRES!

PENNY JONES, A MEDICAL SCIENTIST, AND ZOMBIE WRANGLER PAUL BARNUM ARE WORKING TO TAME A ZOMBIE (AND FORMER SWAT OFFICER) NAMED XAVIER WHO NOT ONLY EXHIBITS INTELLIGENCE BUT SHOWED COMPASSION, SAVING A STREET URCHIN NAMED JO.

BUT IT'S NOT ALL GOOD NEWS. A MAN NAMED RUNYON PLAYS POLITICAL GAMES, PITTING MAYOR CHANDRAKE'S OWN NEPHEW BILL AGAINST HIM WHILE QUIETLY BACKING DARK HORSE CANDIDATE (AND VAMPIRE) CHILLY DOBBS. A BAND OF SOUTHERN REBELS PLAN TO INVADE NYC, HAVING PERFORMED A TEST ATTACK ON SECAUCUS, NEW JERSEY! A VICTIM OF AN UNSANCTIONED VAMPIRE ATTACK WAS TAKEN TO PENNY'S HOSPITAL, WHERE SHE EXHIBITS ALARMING BODILY CHANGES AND A STRANGE HUNGER...

NEW YORK REMAINS A DANGEROUS PLACE. BE PREPARED. STAY VIGILANT. AIM FOR THE BRAIN.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE 
CITY COUNCIL FOR SECURITY:

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SECAUCUS,
NEW JERSEY.

I WAS IN
'GHANISTAN
AND I NEVER
SAW WORSE
DEN DIS.

LIKE IT WAS
DONE BY SOME
WAR MACHINE
OR SOMETHING.
BIG GUNS, OR...
SOMETHING,
I DUNNO.

NOT
GUNS...

...THIS WAS
DONE BY AN
AIRPLANE.

HOW
DO YOU
KNOW?

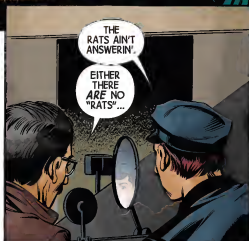
WHOLE
BUNCH A FOLKS
HEARD IT FLYIN'
OVER, DETECTIVE.
THEY SAID IT DIDN'T
SOUND LIKE A JET.
MORE LIKE ONE
O' THEM...

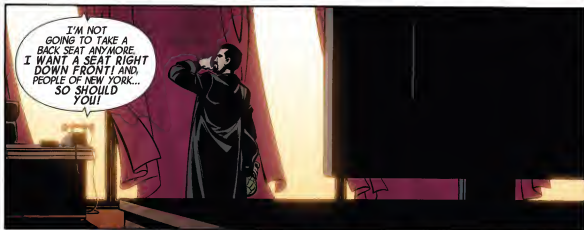
...OLD-
FASHIONED
PROPELLER
JOBS, YOU
KNOW?

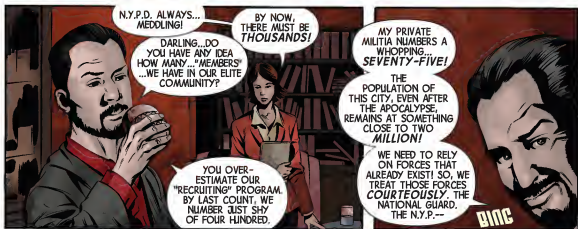
PROPELLERS.
HAMMM...

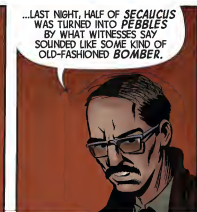
DIRIGIBLES...THAT FLY OVER
SPORTING EVENTS...USE
PROPELLERS TO MOVE THEM
THROUGH THE AIR. IF I AM NOT
MISTAKEN, THERE ARE STORAGE
HANGARS RIGHT HERE IN
NEW JERSEY.

NEWARK,
NEW JERSEY.











WE ARE
INDEED...STRETCHING.
BASED ON A SUSPICION
WE HAVE...THAT ALL
THESE EVENTS ARE
CONNECTED.



MY PARTNER
MENTIONED...A
"GERM." THERE IS
ANOTHER CASE WE
ARE LOOKING
AT.

WHAT'S
THAT?



COLUMBIA HOSPITAL.
SOME DAME GETS BRUNG
IN OFF THE STREET. SLICED
INTA RIBBONS. CLOSE TA DYIN'.
THEY FIX HER UP. ALL THE
WAY. THEY FIX HER UP. SHE'S
ALL BETTER! EXCEPT SHE'S
NOT! SHE'S STILL
SICK!



NONE
OF THE DOCS
CAN FIGURE WHAT
KINDA DISEASE
SHE'S GOT.

I NEVER
THOUGHT OF IT
AS A "DISEASE."



YOU NEVER
THOUGHT OF...
WHAT...AS A
DISEASE,
MA'AM?

SHE MEANT...
WHAT SORT OF
DISEASE COULD IT
POSSIBLY BE?

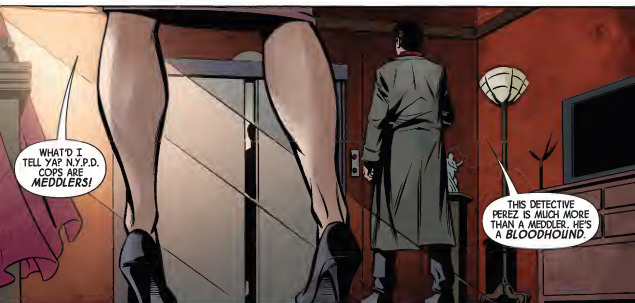
THAT'S
WHAT WE ARE
WONDERING.



AND HOW
COULD ANY OF
THIS POSSIBLY BE
CONNECTED
TO ME?

ONLY IN
THE CURIOUS
MIND, SIR, WOULD
THERE BE ANY
CONNECTION AT
ALL. I SIMPLY
WANTED YOU TO
BE...FULLY
INFORMED.

SORRY
TO BOTHER
YOU. WE'LL
SHOW
OURSELVES
OUT.



YOU'LL NEED TO USE EXTRA CAUTION...WHEN YOU GO AFTER THE THREE PEOPLE WHO NEED TO BE PUNISHED.

THREE?

YOUR NEPHEW, BILL.

THAT'S ONE.

THE WOMAN WE JUST HEARD ABOUT. THE ONE IN THE HOSPITAL.

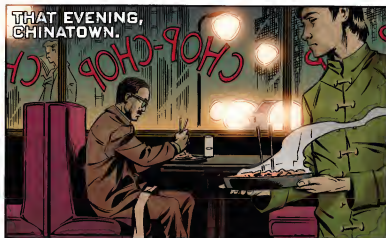
THAT'S TWO.

AND SMARTY-PANTS.

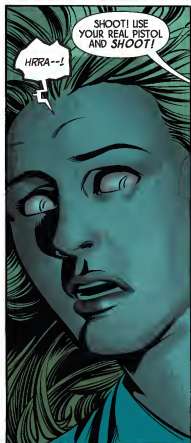
"SMARTY-PANTS"?

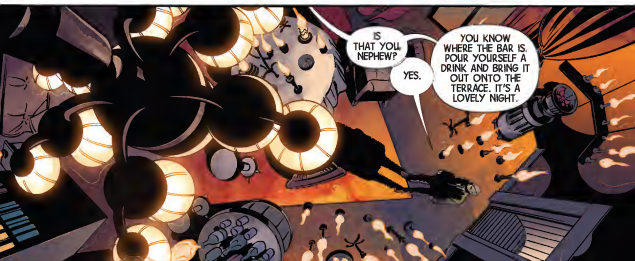
THIS DETECTIVE WHO HAS SUDDENLY COME SNIFFING AROUND.

AH, YES. THAT'S THREE. BUT, AS I SAID...WE MUST TREAT OUR CIVIL SERVANTS...WITH CIVILITY.











YOU, ER...
YOU MIGHT HAVE
SEEN ME ON
TELEVISION IN THESE
PAST WEEKS.

AS A
MATTER OF FACT...
I HAVE SEEN YOU.
FREQUENTLY.

I HOPE
YOU'RE NOT
TOO...DISTURBED
BY THE THINGS
I'VE BEEN
SAYING.



DISTURBED?
OF COURSE NOT.
I DON'T EXPECT
YOU TO SHARE
MY...POLITICAL
VIEWS.



THAT'S...
COMFORTING
TO HEAR.



THERE'S ONE
THING WE CAN
AGREE ON.

WHAT'S
THAT?



THIS TRULY
IS...A LOVELY
EVENING.



NO!
Y-YOU...
KILLED
ME?

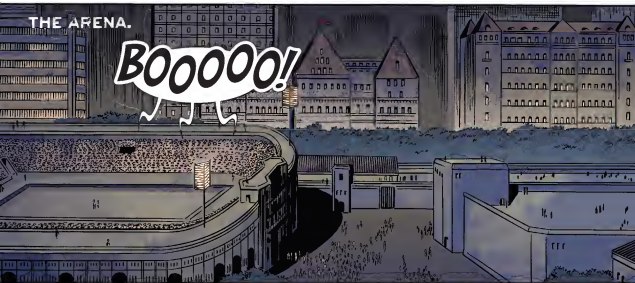
YES, AND
I WILL SOON
HAVE THE PLEASURE...
OF KILLING YOU
AGAIN!





THE ARENA.

Booooo!



IT'S LIKE...
THEY JUST
DON'T WANNA
FIGHT!



I DON'T GET IT.
THEY MIX IT UP REAL
GOOD IN THEIR TRAINING
SESSIONS. AND THE **BIG**
GUY, THERE, LITTLE JOHN.
HE'S THE ONE THAT
KNOCKED ZANZIBAR'S
HEAD OFF!

ZANZIBAR
WENT AFTER
THAT KID,
JO.



THE NEW
BUNCH, THE ONES
WE FOUND IN THE
SUBWAY. IT'S LIKE THEY
HAVE SOME KIND OF...
BROTHERHOOD, OR
SOMETHING. LIKE...THEY
DON'T WANT TO **HURT**
EACH OTHER.



BRING UP ONE
OF THE OLD PROS.
WHO DO WE HAVE
LEFT?

WELL...
THERE'S **JOE**
YOUNG.



PERFECT.
NO ONE
LIKES **HIM**.

LADIES AND
GENTS, BOYS AND
GIRLS...YOU REMEMBER
HIM FROM THE OLD
DAYS...MIGHTY JOE
YOUNNNNG!!!



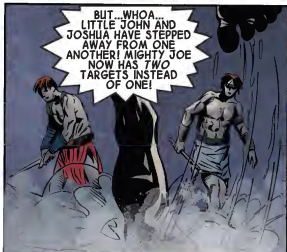
JOE IS
GOING RIGHT
TO WORK!



T-CHING



BUT...WHOA...
LITTLE JOHN AND
JOSHUA HAVE STEPPED
AWAY FROM ONE
ANOTHER! MIGHTY JOE
NOW HAS TWO
TARGETS INSTEAD
OF ONE!



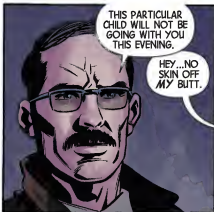
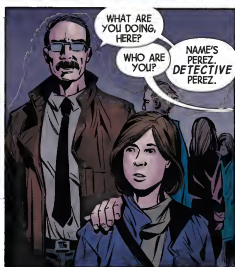
SWING AND
A MISS! MIGHTY
JOE HAS BEEN
THROWN OFF-
BALANCE!



AND HERE
COMES JOSHUA!
IT SEEMS IMPOSSIBLE,
BUT HE AND LITTLE
JOHN ARE WORKING
TOGETHER!







I
HOPE YOU
APPROVE.

CLICK

I BROUGHT
IN ALL THE BEST
CONSULTANTS.
SPARED NO
EXPENSE ON THE
EQUIPMENT.

I CAN
SEE THAT.

IT'S...
EVERYTHING
I COULD EVER
HAVE WANTED.
THANK YOU.





FOLIE